

treason. In order to bring home to him and others the gravity of their offence, the Prophet excommunicated him for some time. No Muslim not even his wife was allowed to speak with him, and it was not until he was thoroughly chastened, that he received full and unqualified pardon.

2. The early Muslims hated a lie and looked upon it as a blot upon their fair name. They regarded it with such horror, that if any one of them was accused of lying, his whole family would be plunged into mourning.

Once (Hazrat) Abdullah bin Salool was advising his friends not to give anything to the companions of the Prophet, so that impelled by want they should leave Medina. (Hazrat) Zaid son of Arqam who was a true Muslim, came to know of this plot, and spoke about it to his uncle, who reported the matter to the Prophet. To make an inquiry, the Prophet sent for Abdullah. But Abdullah denied on oath having said anything of the kind imputed to him. The Prophet accepted his explanation, which was equivalent to discrediting the report of (Hazrat) Zaid son of Arqam. Zaid took this so much to heart, that he retired into the privacy of his house. He was always downcast and never raised his head for shame.

After some time the truth was revealed to the Prophet, and (Hazrat) Zaid's character was cleared.

STORY 22.

THE IDEAL OF HONESTY IN ISLAM.

HONESTY is the basis on which depends the stability of social structure. Without it no society can prosper, and no business can be carried on, because there will be no mutual trust. A Muslim is nothing if not strictly and scrupulously honest.

1. Once (Hazrat) Obayy son of Kaab found a purse containing one hundred gold pieces. Without a moment's hesitation and as a matter of course he took it to the Prophet who told him to search for the owner for one year by public proclamation, (Hazrat) Obayy carried out this instruction very carefully, but could find no trace of the owner. At the expiry of one year he again came to the Prophet, and received the same instruction. At the end of the second year he came again. This time the Prophet said "Keep the money in your possession for one year longer. If during this period some one should turn up, to claim it, restore it to him. But if nobody claims it, then you are free to put it to your own use".

2. Once (Hazrat) Sufyan son of Abdullah found a lost bag. He brought it to (Hazrat) Omar who said to him. "Keep it for one year, and search for the owner. If the owner is not found it is yours". Sufyan did as he was told. The year passed but the owner did not appear. So Sufyan again came to (Hazrat) Omar who